

QA-313
David Bryan Law Office
Centreville
Private

circa 1850s-1865

This small, brick double office may be the oldest surviving building on Lawyers Row. It has served as an office for a number of prominent Centreville attorneys, including John M. Robinson, who practiced law in Centreville in the late 1840's and 1850's and served as Judge of the Third Judicial Circuit 1864-67 before his election to the Court of Appeals in 1867.

The title for this lot can be traced back to 1865, when Samuel McCosh sold the property to Judge Robinson for \$575. That deed describes the lot as being 1/6 of an acre, "part of said lot being now improved by two brick offices, one occupied by John M. Robinson and the other by Gibson and Feddeman.

Judge Robinson died in 1896, leaving all of his property to his wife Marianna Emory Robinson. In 1914 Marianna sold the lot "improved by a brick building now occupied by the said James T. Bright and Madison Brown" to Bright and Brown for \$2000. In 1923 James Bright sold his half interest in the building and it was not until 1969 that the two offices were reunited under one owner.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

David Bryan Law Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

111 Lawyers Row

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☒ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☒ OTHER office**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Barbara C. Bryan

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

111 Lawyers Row

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21617**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: CWC 40

Folio #: 130, 132

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

QA-313

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bryan Law Office is located on the south side of Lawyers Row in Centreville, facing Court House Square.

This small, one story brick building is a continuation of the Harper Building, a two story brick structure immediately to the east. The relationship between these two buildings is not clear, but it seems likely that the second story of the Harper Building was added at a later date.

The Bryan Law Office was at one time a double office, with single doors in the east and west bays flanking a pair of large 2/1 windows in the center. The present owner put a door through the center partition wall, however, and opened the two small offices up into a single large office. The two doors are set off by large single transoms, and a single band of trim crosses the facade immediately above the first floor openings. Simple molded trim frames the two center windows and stops against the horizontal band of trim. Above this, there are two square recessed panels in the brickwork directly below a projecting brick frieze with a corbeled dentil course. The recessed panels are not

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

symmetrical to the facade, but may have been carried on across the Harper Building at one time.

On the rear facade, there is a door in the east bay and two 6/6 windows to the left. A small frame outshut covers the west bay. The brickwork has been reworked around the two windows, so these may be modern openings. A simple corbeled cornice is carried across the rear facade.

The east wall of the building is incorporated into the Harper Building; the west wall is covered by a three story brick structure dating to the late 19th century.

The interior has been completely renovated.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This small, brick double office may be the oldest surviving building on Lawyers Row. It has served as an office for a number of prominent Centreville attorneys, including John M. Robinson, who practiced law in Centreville in the late 1840's and 1850's and served as Judge of the Third Judicial Circuit 1864-67 before his election to the Court of Appeals in 1867.

The title for this lot can be traced back to 1865, when Samuel McCosh sold the property to Judge Robinson for \$575. That deed describes the lot as being 1/6 of an acre, "part of said lot being now improved by two brick offices one occupied by John M. Robinson and the other by Gibson and Feddeman. (1)

Judge Robinson died in 1896, leaving all of his property to his wife Marianna Emory Robinson. In 1914 Marianna sold the lot "improved by a brick

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

building now occupied by the said James T. Bright and Madison Brown" to Bright and Brown for \$2000. (2)

In 1923 James Bright sold his half interest in the building and it was not until 1969 that the two offices were reunited under one owner. (3)

Footnotes

- (1) Deeds SED 1, folio 433. January 11, 1865.
Also see JP 1, folio 276. July 21, 1851.
(John H. Evans to Samuel McCosh).
- (2) Deeds WFW 4, folio 495. January 8, 1914.
- (3) See Deeds JFR 10, folio 258. February 8, 1923.
Wills ECW 1, folio 377. Will of Francis K. Brown
probated August 15, 1962.
Deeds CWC 32, folio 358. January 3, 1968.
Deeds CWC 40, folio 130, 132. March 3, 1969.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

QA-313

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

12/14/81

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

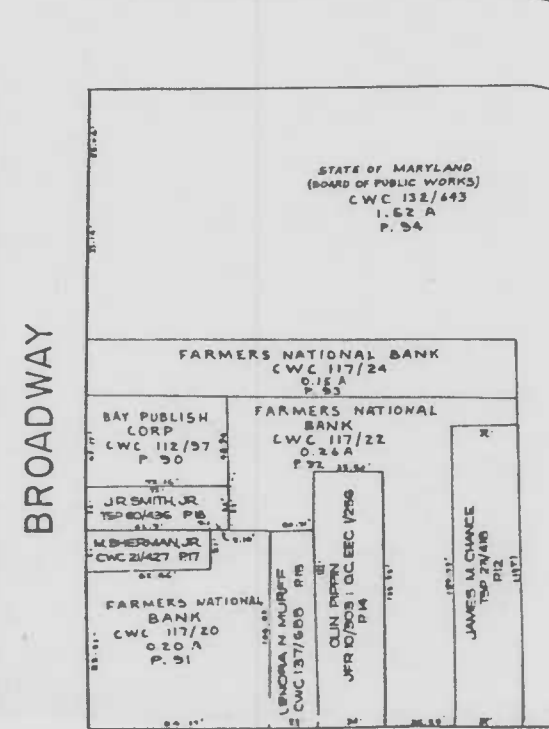
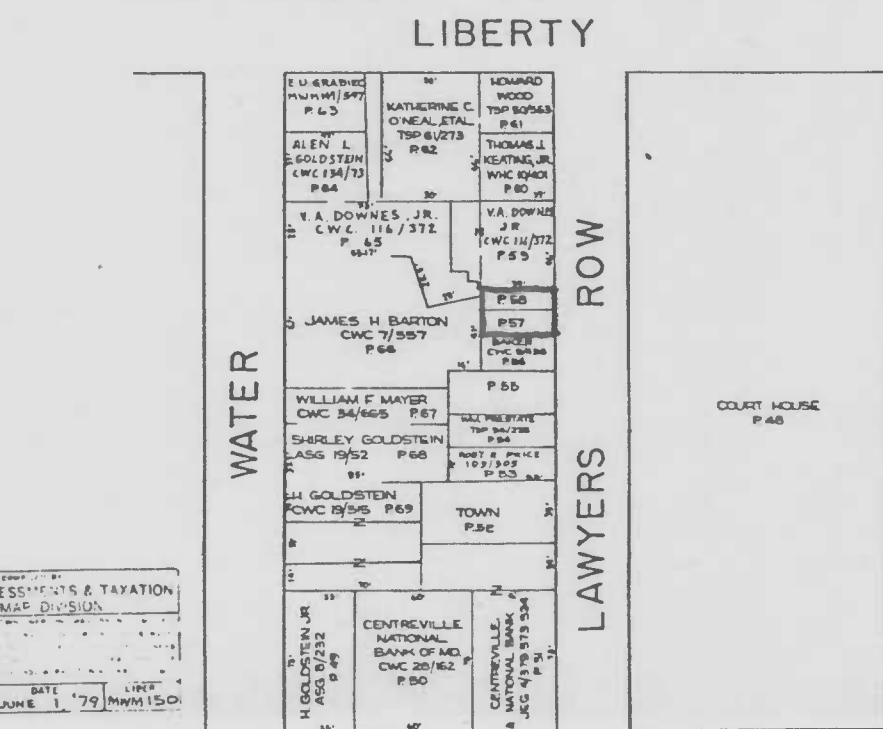
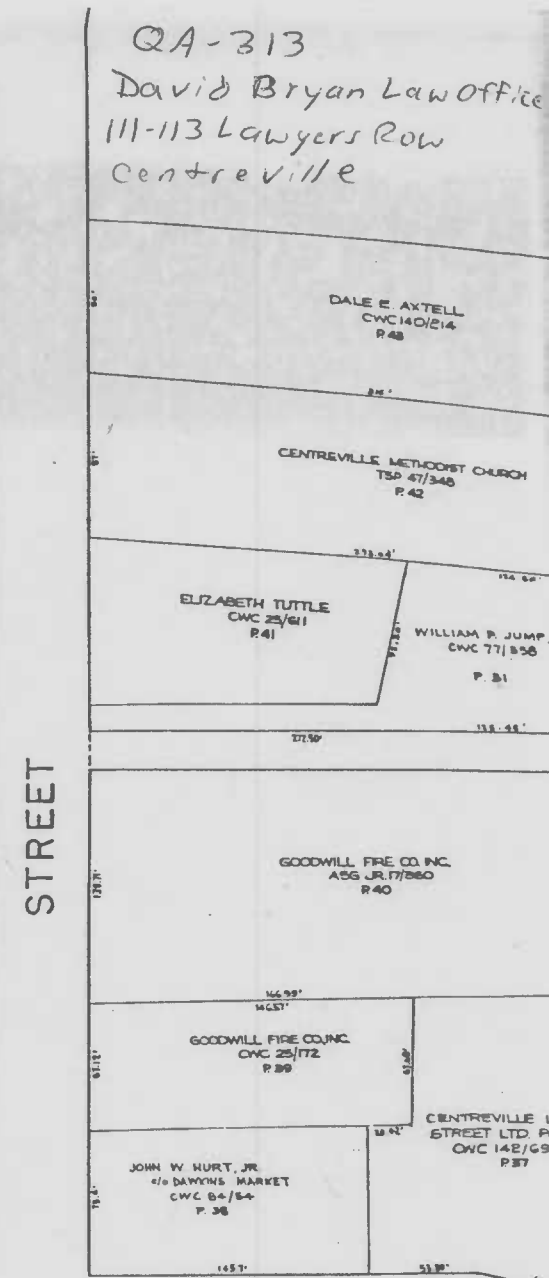
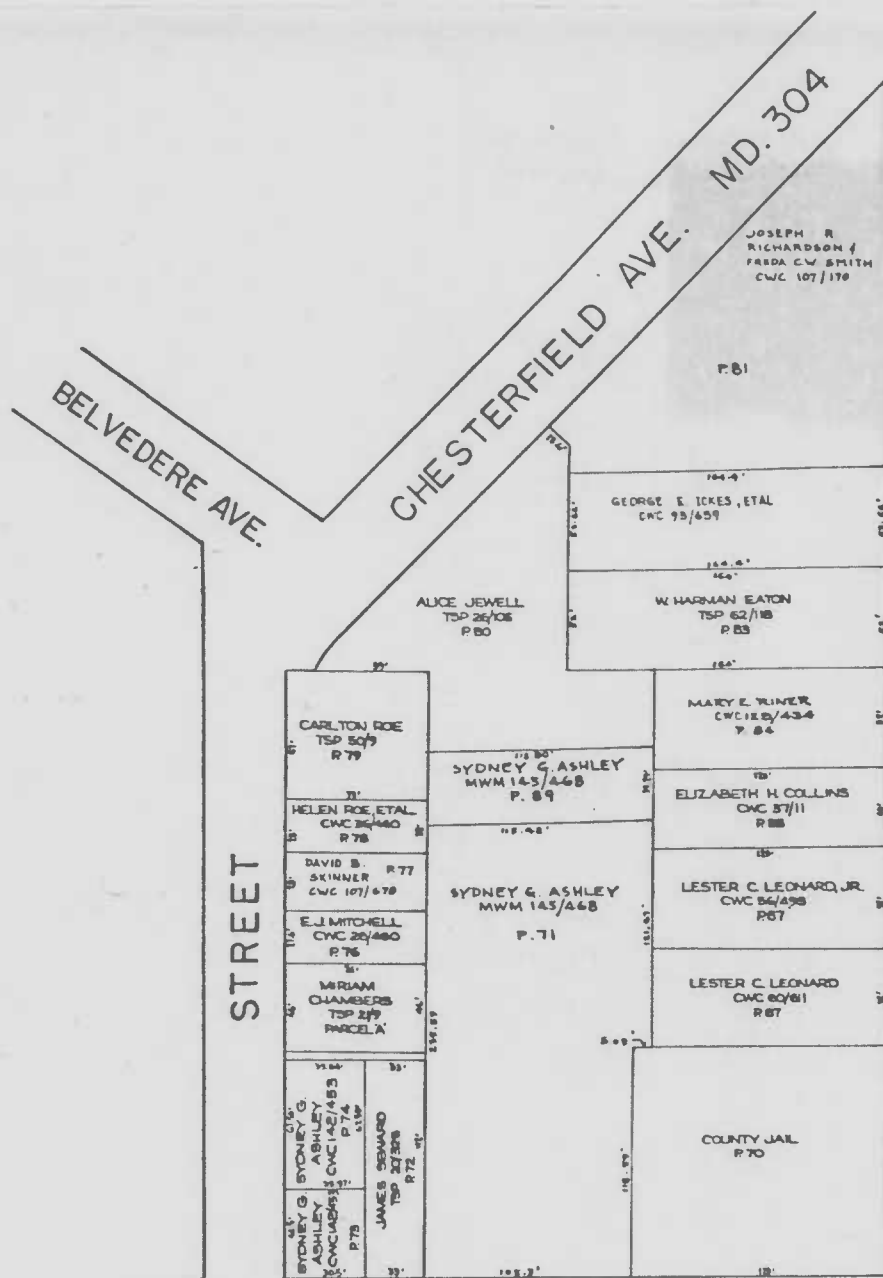
Maryland

Field Notebook QA-XIX; Recorded October 10, 1980.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION
TAX MAP DIVISION

REVISED TO: DATE: JUNE 1, '79 LIPER: MWM150

Mary McCarthy
Spring/Summer 2003
Digital color photo on file at MHT

QA-313, site
Site of David Bryan
Law office
111 Lawyers Row
centreville





QA-313 Bryan Law Office
111 Lawyers Row
Centreville, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V 1980
View from North